



[10191/857]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Gerhard SCHNEIDER et al.
Serial No. : 09/176,124
Filed : October 21, 1998
For : PLANAR SENSOR ELEMENT
Examiner : Ta Tung
Art Unit : 1743

The Office is hereby notified that the correspondence in this case should be addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or

Date: 4/10/20
Signature: [Signature]
KENTON & KENTON

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of January 2, 2002, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Five Times Amended) A planar sensor element for determining at least one gas component, comprising:
- a layer structure including:
 - a measuring cell layer;
 - a covering layer;
 - a heating element disposed between the measuring cell layer and the covering layer and generating a heating power, a layer-shaped heating conductor being embedded in the heating element,
 - wherein the layer-shaped heating conductor is arranged in a layer plane of the layer structure to obtain an at least approximately homogeneous distribution of the heating power over a cross-section of the sensor element perpendicular to the layer structure; and
 - wherein the layer plane is centered with respect to the sensor element.

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